

Prayers for Occasional Ministries

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FOREWORD

Prayer constitutes a significant dimension of ministry for the United States Navy Chaplain Corps. The occasions which call for prayer vary dramatically in their scope and emphasis. With the exception of denominational worship services and programs, the audiences before which we pray represent the pluralistic environment of the Sea Services.

The diversity of religious expressions present in the military dictates consideration and sensitivity to individual and corporate needs. By respecting the dignity of religious conviction, opportunities are opened to emphasize spiritual and moral values necessary for living life with hope.

The values emphasized through prayer are among those filled with promise for Sea Service personnel, because they evoke feelings and thoughts of the heart, responses affecting perceptions of spiritual significance. Through prayer, people reach out to God, and, in turn, are met by God at their point of need.

The expressions of prayer included in our Occasional Ministries are indicative of the quality and style of prayers offered by the United States Navy Chaplain Corps personnel. May the standards established serve to inspire creative thought in formulating prayers that bring encouragement and assurance to people of faith.

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PREFACE

The purpose of our Occasional Ministries is to provide the Navy Chaplain Corps and assisting personnel with a resource of prayers relevant to the varied occasions they encounter in military ministry. While the program is not inclusive of all the prayers individuals are asked to offer, a wide assortment of those written by Navy, Air Force, and Army chaplains, as well as by Support Personnel (i.e. Lay Leaders RPs, etc.), were selected for inclusion. Some are from commercial sources.

Those prayers that were reprinted from commercial sources, are used with permission from the following sources:

(1) Reprinted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, copyright ©1992, The United Methodist Publishing House.

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(**) This indicates prayers previously included in the original *Occasional Ministries*, some of which were re-edited.

The prayers and worship resources selected for publication are intended to supplement existing books of worship available to Sea Service chaplains and support personnel. Thus, Prayers for Occasional Ministries is not an official endorsed guide consisting of prescribed prayers. The users are urged to use the prayers at their own discretion, in part or in whole. With the exception of the prayers copyrighted, as indicated by a footnote, individuals may modify the published prayers, or add additional ones for personal use.

Many of the prayers published were edited to the standards established by the USN Chaplain Corps Chaplain Resource Board. In instances where the editorial prerogative of the CRB was exercised, every effort was made to retain the original thought and emphasis of the author.

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who contributed prayers and/or helped to prepare this expanded second edition of the *Occasional Ministries*. The Chief of Chaplains and the CRB sincerely hope this new computer format will be a great help to you and your ministry, and that this resource will continue to bless, enrich, and extend the ministry of the USN Chaplain Corps and support personnel.

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GUIDELINES FOR LAY PERSONS OFFERING PRAYERS AT MILITARY EVENTS

- Be sensitive to the fact that people from a wide variety of faith traditions are likely to be present.
- Be aware of the nature of the event and plan your prayer accordingly.
- Be timely, not rushing, but using an economy of words.
- Be prepared either by writing out the prayer in advance, or by making mental notes of what you will want to say.
- Be faithful to God by praying in a manner consistent with your own faith.
- Be a servant, recognizing that praying for others is a profound act of service, ushering your hearers into the very presence of *GOD*.

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